

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. An absorbent article having a backsheet, a core, and a sag-tolerable anal and/or vaginal cuff, which contains an opening.
2. An absorbent article as in Claim 1, which has a shortened article portion, which has a shortened article portion with a stretched shortened article length  $L_s$ , and whereby the backsheet, cuff and core each have a geometrical center point, whereby the height  $H_1$  from the geometrical center point of the core, which is in a transversely fixed, to the geometrical center point of the cuff, pulled away from the core in the direction of the height  $H_1$  with a force of 1.0N, is at least  $0.25L_s$ .
3. An article as in Claim 1 which has a shortened article portion, which has a shortened article portion with a stretched shortened article length  $L_s$  and whereby the backsheet, cuff and core each have a geometrical center point whereby the height  $H_2$  from the geometrical center point of the core, which is in a fixed in position, fixed by its geometrical center point, to the geometrical center point of the cuff, pulled away from the core in the direction of the height  $H_2$  with a force of 1.0N, is at least  $0.3L_s$ .
4. An article as in Claim 1, which has a shortened article portion, which has a shortened article length  $L$ , a stretched shortened article length  $L_s$  and whereby the backsheet, core and cuff each have a longitudinal axis and a transverse axis and whereby each longitudinal edge of the cuff, or part thereof and a corresponding longitudinal edge of the backsheet is connected to one another to form a longitudinal connection area and whereby the backsheet has a geometrical center point A, and the cuff has a geometrical center point D and whereby each connection area has an inner connection line, being the line closest to said center point A, and an outer connection line, being the closest to the point D, whereby the transverse axis through A intersects the inner connection line in a point B on the backsheet and the transverse axis through D intersects the outer connection line in point C, whereby the distance  $H_3$ , being the distance (A to B) + (C to D) is at least  $0.3L_s$ .

5. An article as in Claim 1 in the form of an infant or adult diaper, which has a shortened article portion, which has a shortened article length  $L$ , a stretched shortened article length  $L_s$  and a contracted shortened article length  $L_c$ , whereby in use  $L_c$  is smaller than the shortest distance  $L_r$  between the belly button and the small of the back of the infant or adult.
6. An absorbent article as in Claim 1, comprising a backsheet and an anal or vaginal cuff, which is in close proximity to the wearer's skin, having a longitudinal and transverse direction; the cuff being extendible in longitudinal direction and having a means to remain in close proximity to the wearer's skin and; whereby the cuff in relaxed state is also transversely extendible when a force 1N or less is applied to the cuff.
7. An article as in Claim 1 whereby the backsheet and the vaginal or anal cuff each have a longitudinal and transverse direction, whereby the ratio of the longest width of the cuff in transverse direction to  $L_s$  is at least 1:5.
8. An article as in Claim 1 whereby the opening of the cuff has longitudinal edges and, along said longitudinal edges, a means to keep the cuff in close proximity to the wearer's skin, and whereby the cuff, in relaxed state, is extendable in transverse and longitudinal direction.
9. An article as Claim 8 whereby the article has a contracted shortened article portion with a length  $L_c$  and whereby the maximum length of the opening is at least 50% of  $L_c$ .
10. An article as in Claim 9 whereby the elasticated regions each have one or more elastic bands longitudinally along said region, having each a width of 5 to 30 mm.
11. An article as in Claim 1, whereby the backsheet and cuff have each a geometrical center point, the shortest width of the backsheet through its geometrical middle point being  $W_b$  and the shortest width of the cuff through its geometrical center point being  $W_c$ , and whereby, when the backsheet is attached along its longitudinal axis to a horizontal flat, planar surface and the geometrical center point of the cuff is pulled vertically upwards, with a force along the substantially vertical axis though the geometrical center point of the cuff and backsheet, the force being such that no elastic deformation of the backsheet

or cuff occurs, such that the distance  $H_4$  from the geometrical center point of the cuff to the geometrical center of the backsheet is more than  $W_b - 4\text{cm}$ .

12. An article as in Claim 1, whereby the core is positioned between the cuff and backsheet and whereby the core and the cuff are not joined to one another.
13. An article as in Claim 1 whereby the cuff has, in relaxed state, one or more longitudinal folds.
14. An article as in Claim 1, which is an adult or infant diaper, pull-up pants or training diaper.
15. An absorbent article of Claim 1 obtainable by a process comprising the step of:
  - a) providing a first and second sheet of material, each having a first waist region, second waist region and a crotch region, whereby at least the crotch region of the first sheet is at least 25% wider than crotch region of the second sheet;
  - b) providing an elastic material;
  - c) cutting a slit opening in the first sheet of step a), in longitudinal direction, preferably along the longitudinal axis, of the sheet and applying along each longitudinal side of the opening said elastic material over about the total active length of the first sheet, or applying said elastic material over about the total active length of the first sheet in longitudinal direction, preferably along the longitudinal axis, of the sheet, to form a laminate and cutting a slit opening in said laminate; and
  - d) attaching the first and second sheet along at least part of their longitudinal edges, whereby step c) and d) can be in any order.